

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 AID-20 EA-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 EUR-25 DRC-01

TRSE-00 SCA-01 /168 W

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R 201140Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE 9530

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3897

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, NP

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR KHAMPAS

REF: KATHMANDU 2653

1. - ZIA RIZVI, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO UNHCR CALLED ON AMBASSADOR AND DCM SEPTEMBER 20 TO BRIEF THEM ON CURRENT STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH GON ON SUBJECT OF RESETTLEMENT OF KHAMPAS REFUGEES. RIZVI INFORMED US THAT THIS VISIT TO KATHMANDU WAS AN INFORMAL ONE TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE UNHCR ASSISTANCE BUT THAT TO DATE GON HAD MADE NO FORMAL REQUEST FOR AID. HE SAID GON APPROACHING PROBLEM WITH UNCHARACTERISTIC PRUDENCE AND WISHED TO AVOID PROBLEMS OF EARLIER RESETTLEMENT EFFORT FOR TIBETAN REFUGEES. GON OFFICIALS IN PALACE AND HOME MINISTRY WITH WHOM HE HAD BEEN HOLDING DISCUSSIONS CLAIM THAT APPROXIMATELY 6000 KHAMPAS AND KUKPA REFUGEES NEED TO BE RESETTLED AT ESTIMATED COST OF \$1.6 MILLION. RIZVI REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED SCEPTICISM AT AMOUNT REQUESTED AND AT NUMBERS OF REFUGEES.

WE AGREED THAT TOTAL OF 6000 SEEMED EXTREMELY HIGH AS DID PROPOSED COSTS. RIZVI NOTED THAT ONLY PRECISE FIGURE HE HAD BEEN GIVEN WAS 1100 REFUGEES NOW AT NUWAKOT AWAITING RESETTLEMENT.
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2. RIZVI MADE STRONG PITCH FOR USG CONTRIBUTION TO RESETTLEMENT EFFORT SHOULD UNHCR DECIDE TO GO AHEAD. HE SAID THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY UNHCR WOULD MAKE SPECIAL APPEAL GIVEN POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES OF CHINESE AND OTHERS, AND RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT REQUIRED. HE THOUGH UNHCR WOULD PREFER TO APPROACH SELECTED COUNTRIES INCLUDING US, SCANDINAVIANS AND WEST GERMANS FOR DIRECT SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION. RIZVI ARGUED THAT IT WAS IN POLITICAL INTEREST OF US TO CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY IN NEPAL AND TO HELP HMG RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM FINALLY, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW PREVIOUS US INVOLVEMENT WITH KHAMPAS. HE SAID HE HAD DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT PALACE EXPECTED USG TO BE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTOR.

3. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WE WERE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT HMG DEVELOPING RESETTLEMENT PLANS ON RATIONAL BASIS. WE FULLY SUPPORTED GOAL OF RESETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, USG FINANCIAL SUPPORT WAS EXTREMELY UNCERTAIN GIVEN CURRENT FINANCIAL STRINGENCIES IN US. AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT WE WOULD NOT WANT FUNDING ISSUE TO BECOME BILATERAL US-NEPALESE PROBLEM. FROM KATHMANDU PERSPECTIVE IT SEEMED PREFERABLE FOR UNHCR TO MEET LIMITED COSTS INVOLVED FROM ITS OWN ANNUAL BUDGET WITHOUT SPECIAL REQUEST TO POTENTIAL BILATERAL DONORS.

4. COMMENT: RIZVI INDICATED THAT UNHCR SADRUDDIN MIGHT BE VISITING WASHINGTON IN NEXT FEW WEEKS ON OTHER BUSINESS, AND MIGHT DISCUSS KHAMPA ISSUE AT THAT TIME. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT TO BE PREPARED FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT, THOUGH IT IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY GON WILL BY THEN HAVE COME UP WITH NECESSARY SUPPORTING DATA FOR HIGH COMMISSIONER TO HAVE MADE ANY FINAL DECISION ON EXTENT POSSIBLE PROGRAM.
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